

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group
Art Unit: Unknown

Attorney
Docket No.: LHC0091-08

Applicant: Thomas R. Neuenschwander

Invention: PENCIL CORE AND METHOD OF
MAKING

Serial No: Unknown

Filing Date: Herewith

Examiner: Unknown

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10
"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER
EL791285165US

DATE OF DEPOSIT DECEMBER 13, 2001
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Michelle L. Neal

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box New Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application
as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please change the title from "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING
LONG, SLENDER LAMINA STACKS FROM NONUNIFORM LAMINAE" to - PENCIL
CORE AND METHOD OF MAKING- -

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Before the section entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" please add a
section as follows:

- -RELATED APPLICATION

This is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/152,979, filed on September 14, 1998, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/963,795 filed November 4, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,131,268, issued October 17, 2000, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/658,595 filed June 5, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,799,387, issued September 1, 1998.- -

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1-35 and substitute therefore new claims 36 - 44 as follows:

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--36. An elongate cylindrical stack of laminae, said stack having a substantially circular cross-section, said stack comprising at least one first lamina and at least one second lamina, each said laminae having a rectangular shape and having a width and a length, said rectangular shape defining a narrow end, said length of each said lamina being substantially greater than its said width, said first lamina being the widest of all laminae in said stack, said second lamina width being less than said first lamina width, said lengths of all said laminae being substantially identical, each said laminae including an interlock slot, said stack including a top lamina and a bottom lamina, each said laminae, except one of said top lamina and said bottom lamina, having an interlock tab for interlocking interference engagement with the interlock slot of an adjacent lamina in said stack, each said lamina in said stack interlocked to another said lamina, said stack having a substantially planar surface defined by said narrow ends of said laminae, said planar surface including one of a groove and a ridge which extends substantially perpendicular to said widths and said lengths.- -

--37. The stack of Claim 36, wherein each said lamina is flexible.- -

--38. The stack of Claim 36, wherein each said lamina has a grain and a longitudinal axis in the longitudinal direction of said rectangular lamina, said grain extending substantially parallel with said longitudinal axis.- -

- -39. The stack of Claim 36, wherein each said lamina is coated with a dielectric material.- -

- -40. An elongate stack of interlocked laminae comprising:

a first elongate, rectangular, slender, relatively flexible, planar, lamina having a first interlock element, said first lamina having first and second generally opposed edges defining the narrow ends of said rectangular first lamina in a first direction of said stack and having third and fourth generally opposed edges defining the other ends of the first lamina in a second direction of said stack, said first lamina having a length and a first width;

a second elongate, rectangular, slender, relatively flexible, planar, lamina having a second interlock element interlocked in an interference fit with said first interlock element, said second lamina having first and second generally opposed edges defining the narrow ends of said second lamina in said first direction of said stack, the second lamina having a length equal to the length of said first lamina and a second width which is different from said first width, said first edges of said first and second laminae aligned to define a substantially planar surface of said stack, said substantially planar surface provided with a groove which is substantially perpendicular to said first and second directions, said second lamina having third and fourth generally opposed edges defining the ends of said second lamina in said second direction of said stack, one of said third and fourth edges of said first lamina not aligned with said third and fourth edges of said second lamina.- -

- -41. The stack of Claim 40, wherein said stack is substantially circular in cross-section.- -

- -42. The stack of Claim 40, wherein said stack has a substantially cylindrical shape.- -

- -43. An elongate stack, said stack formed by a process comprising:

providing a die assembly having means for guiding strip stock material through the die assembly, stamping means and a choke passageway having one of a notch and a protrusion;

stamping a first said lamina in the strip stock material;

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stamping at least one first interlock slot in the first lamina;
stamping one of a notch and a protrusion in a narrow end of the first lamina;
separating the first lamina from the strip stock material;
placing the first lamina into the choke passageway;
engaging one of said notch and said protrusion of the first lamina with respectively
one of said protrusion and said notch of the choke passageway and guiding said first lamina into
a first stacked position;
stamping a second said lamina in the strip stock material;
stamping at least a first interlock tab in the second lamina;
stamping one of a notch and a protrusion in a narrow end of the second lamina;
placing the second lamina into the choke passageway;
engaging one of said notch and said protrusion of the second lamina with
respectively one of said protrusion and said notch of the choke passageway and guiding said
second lamina onto said first lamina;
at least partially engaging the first said interlock slot and said first interlock tab;
and
separating the second lamina from the strip stock material.- -

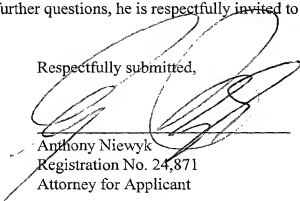
- 44. The stack according to claim 44 including the step of frictionally engaging the
choke passageway with the third and fourth edges of only one of the first and second laminae.- -

REMARKS

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefore and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Should the Examiner have any further questions, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at 219-460-1695.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Niewyk
Registration No. 24,871
Attorney for Applicant

AN/mh/211274

Baker & Daniels
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(219) 424-8000

Pending Claims

Claims 1-35 have been canceled and new Claims 36 - 44 have been added as follows:

36. An elongate cylindrical stack of laminae, said stack having a substantially circular cross-section, said stack comprising at least one first lamina and at least one second lamina, each said laminae having a rectangular shape and having a width and a length, said rectangular shape defining a narrow end, said length of each said lamina being substantially greater than its said width, said first lamina being the widest of all laminae in said stack, said second lamina width being less than said first lamina width, said lengths of all said laminae being substantially identical, each said laminae including an interlock slot, said stack including a top lamina and a bottom lamina, each said laminae, except one of said top lamina and said bottom lamina, having an interlock tab for interlocking interference engagement with the interlock slot of an adjacent lamina in said stack, each said lamina in said stack interlocked to another said lamina, said stack having a substantially planar surface defined by said narrow ends of said laminae, said planar surface including one of a groove and a ridge which extends substantially perpendicular to said widths and said lengths.

37. The stack of Claim 36, wherein each said lamina is flexible.

38. The stack of Claim 36, wherein each said lamina has a grain and a longitudinal axis in the longitudinal direction of said rectangular lamina, said grain extending substantially parallel with said longitudinal axis.

39. The stack of Claim 36, wherein each said lamina is coated with a dielectric material.

40. An elongate stack of interlocked laminae comprising:
a first elongate, rectangular, slender, relatively flexible, planar, lamina having a first interlock element, said first lamina having first and second generally opposed edges defining the narrow ends of said rectangular first lamina in a first direction of said stack and having third

and fourth generally opposed edges defining the other ends of the first lamina in a second direction of said stack, said first lamina having a length and a first width;

a second elongate, rectangular, slender, relatively flexible, planar, lamina having a second interlock element interlocked in an interference fit with said first interlock element, said second lamina having first and second generally opposed edges defining the narrow ends of said second lamina in said first direction of said stack, the second lamina having a length equal to the length of said first lamina and a second width which is different from said first width, said first edges of said first and second laminae aligned to define a substantially planar surface of said stack, said substantially planar surface provided with a groove which is substantially perpendicular to said first and second directions, said second lamina having third and fourth generally opposed edges defining the ends of said second lamina in said second direction of said stack, one of said third and fourth edges of said first lamina not aligned with said third and fourth edges of said second lamina.

41. The stack of Claim 40, wherein said stack is substantially circular in cross-section.

42. The stack of Claim 40, wherein said stack has a substantially cylindrical shape.

43. An elongate stack, said stack formed by a process comprising:

providing a die assembly having means for guiding strip stock material through the die assembly, stamping means and a choke passageway having one of a notch and a protrusion;

stamping a first said lamina in the strip stock material;

stamping at least one first interlock slot in the first lamina;

stamping one of a notch and a protrusion in a narrow end of the first lamina;

separating the first lamina from the strip stock material;

placing the first lamina into the choke passageway;

engaging one of said notch and said protrusion of the first lamina with respectively one of said protrusion and said notch of the choke passageway and guiding said first lamina into a first stacked position;

stamping a second said lamina in the strip stock material;

stamping at least a first interlock tab in the second lamina;
stamping one of a notch and a protrusion in a narrow end of the second lamina;
placing the second lamina into the choke passageway;

engaging one of said notch and said protrusion of the second lamina with
respectively one of said protrusion and said notch of the choke passageway and guiding said
second lamina onto said first lamina;

at least partially engaging the first said interlock slot and said first interlock tab;

and

separating the second lamina from the strip stock material.

44. The stack according to claim 44 including the step of frictionally engaging the
choke passageway with the third and fourth edges of only one of the first and second laminae.